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January 12, 1973

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

It is apparent that the Air Force will justify the need for a new B-1 bomber in part by the reductions in the B-52 inventory as a result of their losses over North Vietnam.

Aside from the entire question of the War, which I oppose, the use of B-52's is particularly alarming.

Your point about the military justification of using SAC forces on a tactical mission is well made. This has generally been overlooked, but SAC forces have been nearly cut in half due to the Vietnam battle.

I will continue to be critical of the B-1 bomber and will object to any attempt by the Air Force to justify a new bomber on the basis of the reduction in forces occurring in Vietnam.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,



William Proxmire, U.S.S.

WP:rtg

PROX, W.